

Smith et al., 10/743936

AF Remarks, Appendix p. A1

CLAIMS

1-9 (canceled).

10 (previously presented). A method for forming wide paint film parts, which comprises:

providing apparatus for forming wide paint film parts, having a frame; and, attached to the frame, at least two paint film stock grasping members, which generally oppose one another, which can grasp deformable paint film stock, at least one of which can be moved apart from the other while the stock is grasped;

providing deformable paint film stock, which is:

in a form of a discrete, substantially planar sheet,

made of a laminate material including a deformable base having a paint film laminated thereon that provides a painted surface finish, and

able to be itself formed into a part through vacuum or pressure molding;

grasping the stock sheet on generally opposing sides by at least two paint film stock grasping members; and

moving, while the stock is so grasped, the at least one of the at least two paint film stock grasping members apart from the other so as to draw or stretch the stock between the at least two paint film stock grasping members in the plane of the sheet so as to form a planarly drawn or stretched planar laminate paint film sheet that retains a painted surface finish.

11 (previously presented). The method of claim 10, wherein heat is applied to the stock sheet to facilitate stretching.

12 (previously presented). The method of claim 10, wherein the stock sheet is stretched to at least about 125% of at least one of its original dimensions it had before stretching.

13-19 (canceled).

20 (previously presented). The method of claim 10, wherein the deformable base of the stock sheet is a thermoformable material.

21 (previously presented). The method of claim 20, wherein the stock sheet is loaded in the apparatus, and the stock sheet is grasped by the paint film stock grasping members through jaws associated with said members; then the stock sheet in the loaded apparatus is softened by heating; and then the stock sheet is drawn or stretched.

22 (previously presented). The method of claim 21, wherein the softened stock sheet is drawn or stretched along at least two non-parallel axes in the plane.